

RAASAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a meeting of the committee of Raasay Community Association held on Tuesday February 14, 2006 at 4 Inverarish Terrace

Present

Roland Stiven (in the chair) (RS)
Davie Carslaw (DC)
Sadie McLeod (SM)
Caroline McKechnie (CM)
Jill Westgarth (JW)

Apologies were received from Geoff Langford

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday January 17th 2006, the draft of which had been previously emailed to directors, were approved and signed.

2. Matters arising from the previous meeting

- **Memorandum and Articles** – nothing further on this.
- **Site Boundaries** – Various of the point raised in the last letter from HIE solicitors had been dealt with by Andrew Prendergast of SALE. However, he needed to meet with Lara (Dualchas) instead of the surveyor referred to in that letter. Sadie would ring him to remind him of the urgency of the matter.
- **Payment of legal costs** – SM reported that Nuala of the Land Fund was processing the payments and would repay those invoices already paid.
- **Robertson Trust**- it was agreed that there was no urgency to draw down this grant, which would therefore be paid once building work had started.

Sadie

3. Meeting with Highland Council

A meeting with John MacDonald and Jeannie Graham, with Jennifer Robertson of SALE had taken place in Portree on January 25th. Roland, Sadie and Jill had attended. This had mainly dealt with the process for handling the ERDF grants for which the process was as follows:

- Highland Council will give us help in submitting quarterly reports etc. as required.
- The Council will process the claims, we will submit the information required to enable them to do this.
- The Council will accept unreceipted invoices, bank statements etc in order to release the funding, however **RCA will need to keep the receipted versions** in case they are required by ERDF.

- **RCA will maintain the master files in case a European audit is held.**
- **RCA needs to prepare a file as previously discussed with Jeannie, covering the appointment of the architects.**

The Council will be the agents for the project but they would not be able to assist in employing someone to do the financial administration. SALE agreed to investigate the use of the Resource Worker scheme for this purpose. We are awaiting the forms etc. from Jeannie to formalize the arrangements relating to the ERDF funding.

Chrisanne advised that we should get the architects to provide more than one copy of the certificates as the Lottery and other funders would require these legal documents, and this would help speed up the process.

4. Building project update

- Following the report of the above meeting, discussion took place regarding the software requirements. SLCVO had software to handle ERDF claims but it was not Mac-friendly. Excel was the most flexible, but which of us had it? – CM queried whether it could be installed on the shop computer with password-protected documents. It was agreed to give this some thought before the next meeting
- At the Highland Council meeting, Jeannie had urged us to make more funding applications to cover potential escalation of costs. JW was unhappy over applying before costs were clearer. RS said Dualchas would get back to us late February with revised estimates and it was agreed we would defer decisions on funding applications until then.
- RS reported that he had completed the Community Resource Worker (CRW) application and was optimistic that it would be approved shortly. This would provide us with 3 days per month for one year; the grant would be of £3,000 and we would need to make a £300 contribution. As soon as the grant was approved, we should put an advertisement in the WHFP and on the Notice Boards. We should also be preparing a schedule of requirements and interview questions.
- Big Lottery Fund – RS reported receipt of a letter from BLF saying that they now had all they need in order to commence paying us grant. We now need an invoice from Douglas Graham in order to trigger payments. Ronnie has now left BLF and our new contact will be Haydee Wilton.
- SM reported contact from the Roads Department over the standard of the access road: depending on the specification, the costs ranged from £50,000 up to £115,000 if a fully adoptive standard access to the potential housing site was provided. Roads Department had to refer this to Planning and it was hoped that Simon Fraser would not be wanting the highest specification, which was not necessary for our own project.
- RS reported a phone call from Lara asking for test boreholes on site. This would reduce the risk of inflated tenders from contractors uncertain as to the ground conditions. Hugh Mackay had agreed to do these this week.

All

- RS reported that an in principle application had been made to the Energy Fund, via Rab Lees. An in principle offer letter was due shortly, which would be subject to detailed application at a later stage. In addition, at the start of the new financial year in April we would know whether the Energy Saving Trust would be making grants which would support the Heat Recovery Ventilation System.
- A landscaping plan had to be done as a condition of the planning consent: since SM was away from late February for a month, RS would try and complete this.
- RS reported that the Hebridean publication had sent for copies of the Open Day photos which had been supplied. It was hoped that they would do a feature on the hall.

5. Meeting with Crofters

Roland, Sadie and Jill had met on January 26th with representatives of the local crofters, together with Colin MacDonald, Development Assistant (Skye & Lochalsh) for the Crofting Community Development Scheme, to see whether there was any way that RCA could work with them to secure more grant under the scheme than would otherwise be the case. The benefits for RCA would be an improved deer fence, which would be of benefit to most of the Raasay community, and a share in any of the grant not needed for constructing the fence. The scheme was quite complicated but there was no risk to any of RCA funds and we were not required to contribute anything to the scheme.

It was agreed that we would continue to work with the local Crofters' Associations to try and develop a scheme of benefit to all parties.

6. Meeting re West Wing use

It was suggested that we should arrange a meeting for late March after SM's return. SM and CM had done some calculation of the usage that Raasay Outdoor Centre had made of the West Wing over the past year, and this could be used as the basis for the coming year.

In connection with the faulty heaters in the West Wing, Geoff Langford had had a look at these but felt they needed to be replaced by SALE as landlords. SM had been in touch with Andrew Prendergast who was looking into replacing these and the faulty water heater in the kitchen.

7. Any other business

- JW reported that Anne Speak had contacted her following the Community Council's receipt of a letter from Rod Richards of the Social Work Department, stating yet again that the preferred option for replacing the doctors' surgery remained combining with the village hall! She expressed concern in case this was being used as an excuse, and suggested that she copy her November email to the Primary Care Trust to Rod Richards.
- Jill**
- SM reported that the children's pool competition had been very successful and had been won by Stuart Gillies.

- RS reported that the website had been repeatedly hacked; it was now working again and Donna had suggested that it be simplified so that security could be improved. **Roland**
- RS had received details of a Community Energy Conference in Harris in late April which he suggested he should attend. This was agreed.
- SM advised that there would be another concert under the auspices of BLAS on September 7th

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.